MONTEREY NEWS

October 2002
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The Town

Life on Board

Every week the Select Board members open the mail, approve the minutes, and sign the warrants. Then they wait. They wait for citizens to appear with suggestions, complaints, and requests. They wait for the Director of Operations and the Police Chief, the Town Secretary and the Accountant to report.

In the lull between visitors, lively discussions often occur. Most recently the board wondered aloud why more people don't come by for a chat. The board appeals to the citizens of Monterey to become more involved in the processes of town government leading up to and including voting at town meetings. Some ideas for improving town meetings include providing childcare and reducing the number of budget items by grouping them together.

It would be impossible to recount every detail of the board's weekly four-hour meetings, but there are certainly a few topics that deserve attention.

"First I Look At The Purse"

Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier has appeared before the Select Board several times to alert us to the shortage of Free Cash. In previous years, Monterey's Free Cash has been consistently around $200,000; this year the state will certify us

Tom Rosenthal

Summer image of Monterey

as having only $65,000, which includes $37,000 borrowed for Town Hall design, but does not include around $50,000 in Chapter (highway) monies now due us. What is Free Cash and why is it important?

Every year the town estimates what its income will be for the coming fiscal year. When we vote to fund items on the warrant, the numbers reflect a budget based on projected income. Income comes from property taxes, town fees, state funds (cherry sheet—monies allocated by the state, so called because the list comes on pink paper—and Chapter monies), and interest on funds we have. At the annual town meeting we appropriate monies for the fiscal year beginning in July. State monies are allotted in August or September, but the bulk of our income doesn't begin to come in until after the tax bills go out in November. In a good year we take in more than we budget for, creating unreserved funds. These funds are what tide us over until taxes are paid. Unreserved funds made it possible to cover such items as the purchase of a new truck ($35,816) for the Director of Operations and the anticipated $12,000 shortfall in the Snow and Sand Account approved at special town meetings last winter.

In the recent past we've had more funds earning good interest and could rely on a sizeable allowance from the state. We based this year's budget on that expectation. As it happens interest rates have dropped sharply, while at the same time we have less money earning interest and the state has reduced their cherry sheet payment by a third. We spent more and earned less. Without enough unreserved funds, the town must borrow money to fund its operations. We currently have about $150,000, down from $239,00 last year. Unreserved funds plus deferred revenue minus outstanding taxes equal Free Cash.

Currently the town has borrowed $500,000 in anticipation of tax receipts. The town has already spent 24%, or $622,080, of its budget. Last year we spent $7,834 in interest on borrowing of a million in the short term. We can anticipate paying more in interest this year, as we may be borrowing more for a longer period. Tax bills will be three to four weeks late, due to the revaluation in progress. Meanwhile, Ms. Gauthier says that the town is cash-strapped, that we have to live within our means and avoid paying interest on borrowed money. The shortage of Free Cash is a warning that we have overspent.

Town Hall Plans

The Select Board was shocked to receive no bids for Town Hall expansion. Word has it that our budget is too low to make a bid. Part of the problem may be the interface between a general contractor and a modular contractor. At a later meeting with architect David Bixby, it was decided to reconfigure the bid for a stick-built structure, in hope of generating more interest and opening the field to more potential bidders.

In Brief

A lakeside property off Elephant Rock Road is for sale. Because it is in Chapter 61, the town has Right of First Refusal and has 120 days to act on it or transfer that right to a nonprofit organization. The board had hoped to offer it to the Public Access Board as a site for the boat launch. A suggestion was made that the town purchase the land as additional town beach, but the board took no position.

The School Committee will meet at the Monterey School on October 17 at 7 p.m. Ms. Lazzarini will attend, and all interested persons are invited.

Massachusetts Electric will meet with local officials on Friday, September 27, at the Firehouse to resolve complaints about their inadequate response during recent storms. In one case, lines were down for almost eight hours.

A Cultural Council meeting will take place at the Town Hall on October 9 at 3:30 p.m.

Godja, Marlowe & Co. are in the process of completing an audit of the town finances. A final report will be given in the near future.

The Select Board appointed Leigh Tryon a special town employee to avoid conflict of interest issues.

Assistant Fire Chief Maynard Forbes reported that a $21,000 grant has been

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awarded to the Fire Company for replacement of equipment on the brush truck. The board discussed the potential problem of lack of volunteers, how to recruit more members, and how to compensate them for time away from work. The current tax abatement program may be endangered due to a recent IRS ruling that deems it taxable income.

A Swap Shop is being planned for the Transfer Station.

The cost of highway line painting for 17 miles of yellow and 12 miles of white was $6,532.

On October 7 the Conservation Commission will meet with Gail Ceresia for the hearing on the Lake Garfield drawdown, which will begin by October 15 and be completed by the 31st.

The Greene Park ball field will be upgraded with clay donated by Petricca Construction and equipment operated by Tryon Construction.

— Michele Miller

George Emmons

Fire Department Service Remembers September 11th

As endorsed by The Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, and the Department of Fire Services, the Monterey Fire Department observed the first anniversary of the terrorists attacks with subsequent losses suffered at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania.

The well-attended event included the roll of apparatus to the front of the station, then assembly of all personnel and guests in front of the apparatus to maintain silence. At exactly 9:45 a.m., the time of the south tower collapse, four sets of five chimes were tolled on the engine brass bell, followed by lowering the station flag to half mast, then a prayer by Pastor Elizabeth Goodman, followed by the Firefighters' Prayer read by Del Martin, and "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.

After this moving and solemn memorial service here, our firefighters participated in a later observance in Great Barrington, as a demonstration of Volunteer Firefighter solidarity in southern Berkshire County.

And if that isn't enough voluntary contribution of service to their community, the men were called out late in the day to fight a house fire on Swann Road that kept them working into the wee hours of the next morning. All in a day's work? No, for most of these men, all *in addition* to a day's work. For this we commend their contribution to the Monterey community.

— George Emmons

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Bidwell House October Events

On Saturday, October 12, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Sarah Grant, "an artist, naturalist and environmental educator," will present a Nature Walk/Nature Journaling Workshop. Treat yourself to a walk in the brilliant fall landscape of New England and observe nature. Ms. Grant will lead you on a tour of The Bidwell House Museum grounds while instructing you in the "process of setting up a nature journal." No previous artistic experience is necessary, and the walk is open to adults and children ten and older. Please bring a sketchbook, pen, and pencil.

On Saturday, October 19, there will be an Open House at the museum from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In addition, Jim Kelly of Woodside Orchards will demonstrate the art of apple cider pressing. This will mark the end of the 2002 museum season.

The museum is open for tours through October 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. At other times, the museum may be viewed by appointment. Admission is free.

For more information please call The Bidwell House Museum, (413) 528-6888, or visit our website at www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

— Candace Thayer

Fourth Annual Firemen's Ball Set for October 12

The Monterey Fire Company, Ltd., will hold the fourth annual Firemen's Ball on Saturday, October 12, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse. The ball will honor and salute all Berkshire County Volunteer Firefighters.

Come socialize with your neighbors, savor delicious hors d'oeuvres, satisfy your thirst at the cash bar, enjoy a sumptuous buffet supper, and sing along with and dance to the great music of the Carlin Big Band. Tickets are $45 per couple.

The members of the Monterey Fire Company are: Raymond Tryon (Chief), Leigh Tryon (Asst. Chief), Maynard Forbes (Asst. Chief), Mark Makuc (Captain), Del Martin (EMT, Captain), Scott Sheridan (Lieutenant), Shawn Tryon (Lieutenant), Patrick Sheridan (Lieutenant), Warren Thomson, Rick Andrus, John Makuc, Buddy Rodgers, Scott Amstead, Ken Dempsey, Carly Ketterman (EMT), and Chris Tryon.

Transfer Station Notice

All Freon must be removed from white goods (refrigerators, etc.) before they are taken to the Transfer Station. They must have a sticker to that effect or they will not be accepted.

Please note that there is now a protective box for recycling of clothes. These items will go to Third World countries as needed.

Winter hours for the Transfer Station will go into effect on Sunday, October 27 (when Daylight Savings Time ends). The Sunday winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Wednesday and Saturday hours will not change, remaining 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Halloween Trick or Treat Hours

The hours for tricking or treating in Monterey will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Halloween, Thursday, October 31.

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Sincerely, *Linda*

Talk on Environmental Health and Children

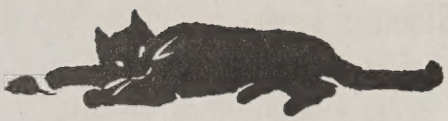
Dr. Ted Schettler will give a free public talk titled "Environmental Health: Lessons from the Children" on Thursday, October 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Duffin Auditorium at Lenox Memorial High School, 197 East Street. In his presentation, Dr. Schettler will explain why children are so vulnerable to toxic chemicals. He will discuss the evolving research that connects exposure to toxic chemicals and diseases such as asthma, cancer, and learning and behavioral disabilities. Steps that individuals and communities can take to protect families and the environment will be outlined.

Dr. Schettler is nationally known for his expertise on the relationship between children's health and toxic exposures. He is the coauthor of *Generations at Risk: Reproductive Health and the Environment* and *In Harm's Way: Toxic Threats to Child Development*. He is the Science Director for the Science and Environmental Health Network and cochairs the Committee on Human Health and the Environment for the New England Region of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Health-care providers can receive continuing education credits through Berkshire Area Health Education Center for attending the public lecture. For information on receiving credits, call 413-447-2417. Childcare providers should contact Resources for Childcare at 413-443-7830 to receive OCCS hours for attending this presentation.

While in Berkshire County, Dr. Schettler will also present Medical Grand Rounds at Berkshire Medical Center, where he will update physicians about current research on how chemicals in our air, water and homes can have long-term negative impacts on children's health. Although these impacts are caused by a complex interaction of genetic, environmental, and social factors, toxic chemicals demand special attention because they are preventable causes of harm.

This presentation is a cooperative effort of Berkshire Health Systems, Berkshire Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Sprout—Berkshire Initiative for Children's Environmental Health, and the Center for Ecological Technology (CET). This program is funded in part by USDA Rural Utilities Service, the Berkshire Environmental Fund, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is supported by the *Family Beat*. For more information, please call CET at 413-445-4556 or visit www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm.



October Collections Oil Paint and Waste Motor Oil

Collections are being held at the Otis recycling transfer station, 538 West Center Road, on October 5 from 9 to 11 a.m., and at the Lenox Department of Public Works, 275 Main Street (Rt. 7A), on October 19 from 9 to 11 a.m. This program is sponsored by the seventeen towns that form the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative.

Preregistration is required by calling the Center for Ecological Technology at 445-4556 or 800-238-1221 or e-mailing jamiec@cetonline.org. For more information on these collections, visit: www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm.

Latex paints are not accepted at these collections. Residents who have old unusable containers of latex paint can dry the paint out using cat litter or newspaper. Dried latex paint can be disposed of in regular trash.

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Senator Says

Environmental and Transportation Bond Bills

The legislature has passed, and the governor has signed, two important pieces of legislation that over the next several years will address a range of environmental and transportation issues.

The $753.9-million Environmental Bond Bill provides funding for critical state environmental programs, including farmland preservation, watershed protection, and a public lands proposal I launched known as the Common Ground Initiative. The bill includes $52 million for the Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR) program, which is the oldest agriculture preservation program of its kind in the United States. APR has protected prime farmland in Massachusetts from development by helping to acquire more than 42,000 acres of agricultural land and leveraging over $40 million in federal, local, and nonprofit dollars.

The Common Ground Initiative, which aims to prevent illegal dumping in state forests and parks, has received support from the Department of Environmental Management, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the State Police, and local officials. The bill increases the fines for dumping in state forests and parks to $5,500 for the first offense and $15,000 for additional offenses. It also mandates that permanent signs indicating the penalties for violating the law against dumping be placed on all DEM lands. Furthermore, the bill earmarks $500,000 for enforcement of the illegal dumping law. Additionally, the Environmental Bond Bill will create a commission to study the implementation of an "Amnesty Day" program that would allow no-cost waste disposal on one or two selected days.

The Environmental Bond Bill also includes more than $120 million for various land acquisition programs, including $3 million for the purchase and lease of Bousquet Ski Area in Pittsfield; $43.4 million in matching grants for cities and towns; $47 million for hazardous materials cleanup; $32.2 million for capital improvements to the state forest and park system; and $20 million for the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative.

The Transportation Bond Bill provides $301.2 million for statewide transportation improvements, including funds for the Chapter 90 program and for Public Works Economic Development (PWED) grants. Both of these programs provide cities and towns with critical state resources necessary for local road repairs, construction projects, and other infrastructure improvements.

The bill authorizes $200 million for the Chapter 90 road maintenance program, which assists cities and towns in the design, repair, and reconstruction of local roads and bridges. It also authorizes $66.2 million for PWED, a program that provides grants to municipalities for the construction of roads and other transportation-related projects with an economic development benefit to cities and towns. PWED funding is vital to municipalities that want to make local infrastructure improvements necessary for economic development initiatives.

These bond bills are part of the capital budget, which gives the governor the authority to borrow money to meet many of the needs of the commonwealth. The state government sells bonds or notes on the market to fund capital projects we could not otherwise afford on a "pay as you go" basis. Funding for these bonds does not come out of the operating budget and will not put a further strain on education, social, or other programs.

— State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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Becoming a Forest Sleuth

During five hot days in August, the Orion Society sponsored a nature-writing workshop with an English professor from Middlebury College and an ecologist from Antioch. The ecologist, Tom Wessels, is the director of the Environmental Biology Program and the author of *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England.*

Each day, after a savory breakfast from Race Brook Lodge, we set out into the Berkshire woods. We were becoming detectives, water-toting Sherlock Holmeses in daypacks and sneakers. Wessels pointed out clues, drawing from over twenty years of experience interpreting New England's landscapes. Scanning an area with an eye for disturbance, we searched for evidence of pasture, fire, logging, beaver activity, and blowdowns.

Pastures were prolific after "sheep fever" in 1810, as thousands of Merino sheep were shipped to the U.S. after Napoleon's victory over Portugal. Indications of pasture are now found in stone walls (a bounty in New England), the growth of thorny shrubs and "weird apples," aptly named by Wessels. This type of apple tree is stunted in growth, with densely intertwined branches, a clue of the dining habits of previous pasture animals.

Evidence of fire is quite obvious when the smoke is still steaming from charred trees. Yet, even after years have passed, a forest fire can be noted by the mark of basal scars (triangular scars at base of trees), standing dead snags (conifers and oaks made rot resistant from heat), and multiple trunk trees (trees that sprouted from their stumps after fire).

Logging is often apparent when the whir of chainsaws and glimpse of red flannel is seen. Yet, when the forest lays silent, some remaining trees may hold the tale of loggers for decades to come. Opposing basal scars (where skidding logs damaged the base of trees) are often seen along old logging roads.

A pond or small lake may often be the home to a beaver family dam. Standing dead snags (usually conifers and birches with preserved roots caused by flooding dams) may quickly reveal evidence of beaver activity. Teeth marks on bark are also a dead giveaway!

I found searching for blowdowns most fascinating. The clues are subtle and one's eye must be sharp. Our Berkshire tornado of Memorial Day '95 has left startling indications of a destructive disturbance to the landscape. After decades, and even centuries have passed, tornado evidence may be found in pillow and cradle topography. *Pillows* are mounds formed when a tree and root system rot. *Cradles* form when a live tree is torn from its roots, creating a depression in the soil where it once stood.

Glynis Oliver

As Tom Wessels wrote in *Reading the Forested Landscape:* "Through some knowledge of history and the broader view of seeing forest and not just its trees, we begin to see the forces that shape a place. This new sense of seeing creates reverence, respect, a sense of inclusion and accountability. Reading the landscape is not just about identifying landscape patterns; more importantly, it is an interactive narrative that involves humans and nature. For those interested in enhancing their sense of place, I know of no better way than by becoming intimately acquainted with their local forests and the fascinating stories they tell."

This workshop was a remarkable experience of looking at familiar ground with new eyes, and new appreciation. I would highly recommend Wessels' book to any aspiring forest sleuths.

— Melissa Hamilton

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

Here is a picture of a person I have hated, a grainy still shot in black and gray captured by a surveillance camera: he is turning the corner, having just passed through security, his right arm swinging ahead, his left foot taking a forward-moving step.

I myself have walked that patch of carpet-covered concrete. I have passed through that security checkpoint, been x-rayed by that machine, most likely filmed by that camera. I have flown out of those gates, perhaps even the very gate he did. I have been there before, where he will forever be, according to this strip of film that I have seen on TV.

Mohammed Atta was born in a city in the Nile Delta in Egypt on September 1, 1968, and died 107 stories above New York City on September 11, 2001. In the years before his death, he lived in Hamburg, Germany where he recruited other Muslims for his fundamentalist cause. In the months before he died, he earned his wings at Huffman Aviation International in Venice, Florida. A week before the attack, he was seen drinking and playing video games in a Florida sports bar, enjoying the very things he was sent to put a stop to. And in the bag he left behind were later found airline uniforms, flight manuals, and a four-page document in Arabic in which was written, among other things, this reminder: "Check your weapon before you leave. You must make your knife sharp [for] you must not discomfort your animal during the slaughter."

"Lord," Peter addressed Jesus, "if a sister or brother sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" And Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times."

Here is a picture of another person I have hated; perhaps you've seen her too: she laughs into the camera that catches her image as she passes, marching through streets somewhere in Palestine. She wears large-framed plastic eyeglasses and traditional Islamic dress. She is jubilant, her hands perhaps thrown in the air, her feet perhaps leaping off the ground with each step. The camera catches her laughter before she is aware of being watched. Then she turns her laughter on the camera as if she knows that her face will be broadcast into our homes, we whose pain inspires her joy at the destruction of an architectural feat that took one man's career to complete, at the death of thousands of people who had merely been going about their day, at the despair of countless others who suddenly knew ourselves to be hated simply because we live as we have been taught to live, simply because we exist.

"Lord," Peter addressed Jesus, "if a sister or brother sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" And Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy times seven."

Forgiveness in the context of September 11, 2001, and its aftermath is a scandal to some, as if to forgive the evildoing of others is to forego seeking justice, or moreover to deny the reality of evildoing, to dismiss it altogether with a collective, "Whatever," and to go on complacently about our business.

But this is not, in fact, forgiveness—permissiveness or the absence of any ethical standards. It is not a matter of silencing our sense of what is right and righteous and good for us and the world. It is neither folding to those whose intentions are to destroy, nor carelessness, nor indifference to wrong. And the ethic of forgiveness of which Jesus spoke does not require that we repress our true experience of those with whom we live on Earth, that we do away with "tough love" solutions to such problems as alcoholism, addiction, and abuse, that we place ourselves completely at the mercy of an uncaring and unrepentant sinner, that we play dead, so passive in life as to make us an easy mark for unscrupulous people. The ethic of forgiveness does not require that we give up our hope for justice, but that we seek justice in order to reach the higher goal, reconciliation.

And this cannot be without acknowledging when standards have been ignored and values violated, rights wronged, and feelings hurt. Truly, there can be neither forgiveness nor reconciliation without our minding it when wrong is done, and minding it deeply, for forgiveness requires, as C. S. Lewis said, "looking steadily at the sin ... and seeing it in all its horror, dirt, meanness and malice, and nevertheless being wholly reconciled to the person who has done it. That, and only that, is forgiveness."

So I have hated my hatred, but the alternatives are worse: to deny that its

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cause is real—I have tried that, saying that this attack pales in comparison to what Israel did with American weaponry to Palestinians in Lebanon in the early 1980s. To take on more guilt than is ours to carry—I have tried that, rightly confessing that the United States has behaved dishonorably in the Middle East and then wrongly wondering if we deserved this. To try that trick of not minding it—I have tried this, just not thinking about that day.

Yes, I have hated my hatred, knowing hatred so easily becomes violence that justifies itself with its own lies. But hatred, once confessed, can as well become grounds for being forgiven and for offering others forgiveness, all to the end of reconciliation.

Corrie ten Boom discovered this one day. Corrie ten Boom was an essential link in the chain of people that was the Dutch Underground during the Second World War. Her efforts landed her in a Nazi death camp, where she was the only member of her family not to die. And after the fall of the Third Reich, she set out, touring Europe to preach how God's good news of forgiveness was the only way by which the wounds inflicted on the world by Hitler's Final Solution would heal. At one meeting in Germany, following a talk by Corrie, a former member of the Gestapo came forward. "I believe what you have been saying about God's forgiveness," he said, "and I am glad that Jesus forgives our sin just as you say." And he extended his hand to her.

Corrie recognized him as one of the guards in the camp where she had been imprisoned. She remembered his cruelty, his leering when they were in the shower, his monitoring when and how much they were allowed to eat, and she found herself unable to move her hand to shake his, locked in her hatred, a hatred he no doubt had earned.

"I found that I was unable to forgive," she later wrote. So she prayed then, saying, "Jesus, I am unable to forgive this man; please forgive me." And then, as she later wrote, she felt in some strange way forgiven for not forgiving, and by a power that was not her own she took his hand in hers, and forgave this most deserving enemy.

It is possible so to forgive. What's more, we are a nation with the strength to forgive. We are a nation with the strength, of land, of productivity, of education, of invention, of influence, of allies all over the world, to forgive. We are powerful enough, wealthy enough, free enough, faithful enough in our own ideals, with such integrity, to forgive. Truly, we are so blessed as a nation in our striving to make of our lives Heaven on Earth that we do not need to collect from those who can only hope that their world might one day seem a little less like hell.

Like Egypt pursuing Israel, we do not need these slaves, the Middle East, to provide for our high living anymore.

Like Egypt pursuing Israel, we do not need these slaves, the Third World, to work for our well being anymore.

We do not need this war in the Middle East, and if we pursue it, we may find ourselves like the Egyptian army pursuing Israel, sinking into the soft earth of the wind-dried Sea of Reeds, bogging down under the weight of our own militancy.

It is possible, and we in particular have been empowered, to forgive, which does not mean denying the destruction and death that al-Qaeda unleashed on our nation, but means looking into the abyss where once towers stood, remembering the faces of men and women who were eager to see us brought low, imagining the minds of those who lead them, feeling the hearts of those who planned it, and praying for the grace to be reconciled to them nonetheless, for only in this may we all on this small green Earth continue simply to live.

— Elizabeth Goodman

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sets weary feet on a stool,
closes her eyes, dreaming...

Men are sitting around a diner,
'Hey, you hear about that double play
at Mass General last night?
A geriatric nurse was up for 48 hours—
checked twenty-nine bedpans and IVs
and got five patients off the floor,'
In town, children are exchanging 'narly nurse' cards
wearing hospital insignias on their caps
and numbered scrubs of top surgical teams
Crowds jostle in Astroturf waiting rooms
begging for autographs while
waving banners 'RN Rookies Rock!'
and cheering passing CNAs and LPNs

Yawning, she awakens to the buzz of A.M. radio:

"People think we make $3 million and $4 million a year.
They don't realize that most of us only make $500,000."
—Pete Incavigila, ball player for Texas Rangers

Dreams will have to linger, here in Outfield.

— M. Hamilton

Cassandra

Upthreading flame, veining light
spreading invisible
network luminous
binding atom, man and star
overlook its trembling
ignore the urge to be!

pay no mind, my daughter, pay no mind
but, o! let me warn you
should you turn your eyes inward
yearn in wonder for filaments of feeling
probe, blow, reach for the Promethean fire
you will burn, my daughter, you will burn!
your heart a conflagration, out of hand,
screaming with pain, you'll go
to love for help but destroy it
then as a pillar of fire
a finger of time
you will have to flee all
friends and dear ones
lest you let loose the flames of madness
or become a torch in the wilderness
consecrated, a witness blazing alone
in the hands of the god
this:
the price, the prize of knowing

— A. O. Howell

Memories of My Home of Long Ago

They remodeled the house where I grew up
In those carefree days of yore.
As time goes by, each passing year
It changes more and more . . .
The elms are gone; out-buildings too,
Some fields to woods have changed;
A highway climbs where woods once were
And the driveway's rearranged.
The cows and horses, hogs and hens
Are there no more, I know.
The place no longer seems the home
That I loved so long ago!

— Eleonor Kimberley

Mice, House and Garden

As our human population teeters on the brink of yet more war and plods forward on its characteristic and shameful path of self-indulgent waste and pollution of a miraculous planet, we should take time out to study our neighbors and roommates, the mice. I don't say the mice can save us or the planet from ourselves, or teach us to be kinder, gentler folks. I just say it is always a good idea to get the head out of the sand, the heart out of its despair, and the nozzle out of the gas tank for just a little while and consider another creature's way of life.

Most of us probably tend not to think much about mice until our paths intersect. This may occur in the cupboard, the silverware drawer, the dogfood bag, or the cereal box. We may find ourselves living closely with mice in the potato patch, the beets, the lower levels of the pole beans, around the trunks of our young fruit trees, or under the housing of our lawn mower when we have not used it for a couple of weeks. Maybe we find mice snuggling up to us in the glove compartment of a truck that has sat in the barn waiting for repairs, or in a pair of ski boots not worn since the last cold season.

Those of us who keep domestic cats are likely to have a mouse-awareness that is a little less vital, slightly historical: we meet a mouse that was. Sometimes the mouse that was comes to us in altered form, disorganized, sloppy. We may see it less as a mouse than as a small cleanup job. Even if we have an interest in such details, we may be unable to tell what kind of mouse it was.

At a recent Monterey News Board Meeting, one of the directors brought, as new business, an exhibit of unspecified mouse intersection. She drew from a paper bag the delicate purple shell of a large beet. We don't usually think of beets as having shells, but that is all that was left of this one, the interior having been removed by a tiny set of teeth, probably during the course of several subterranean visits.

The meadow mouse, vole, or *Microtus sp.*, will not visit our silverware drawers or dogfood bags. She may come into our houses as an unwilling guest in the jaws of the cat, and she may turn up the next day as the mouse that was. But left to her own devices, she will spend her whole life in the same outdoor quarter acre of Monterey where she leads a frantic existence based on food, sleep, and babies.

Our meadow mouse is dark brown with shiny black eyes, a sloping forehead, and a short tail. She came into the world weighing 1/20 of an ounce, blind, deaf, helpless, and transparent. If we had seen her then, we could have seen the blood running in her veins. We could have seen right through her delicate pink mouse-baby skin to her dark organs. Such a tiny, vulnerable scrap of life, we would have said. It will be a miracle if she lives to eat beets.

Probably she was the only one of her litter who realized this destiny. Most of the others will have taken earlier detours into the mouse-that-was path: all sorts of snakes love to eat mice and so do frogs, snapping turtles, crows, shrikes, hawks, and owls. Mouse-eating mammals range from the tiny shrew right up to the grizzly bear, but the most serious one for meadow mice is the little weasel, which can go right into tunnels and burrows and wipe out an entire quarter-acre of mice in one busy night. A mouse has no individual defense against a berserk weasel, but as a population she is dynamic and we do know that math rules.

The little meadow mouse eats her weight in food every twenty-four hours. This keeps her on the run, but she is not too busy with her own survival to do her part for the continuance of the population and the species. From a helpless

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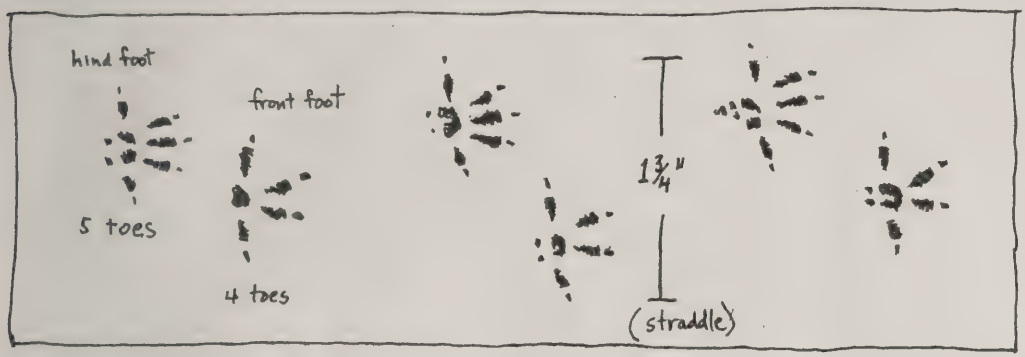
mite at birth, she quickly develops into a self-sufficient mouse in two weeks and is pregnant herself by the time she is four weeks old. Three weeks later her babies are born, usually five to nine in a litter, and in a matter of hours she leaves them briefly so she can mate again. She is capable of producing seventeen litters in one year, but odds are she will not live a whole year. (The weasels are part of the math.)

A baby mouse is covered with fine fur by the age of four days and at one week has its first teeth. These little voles, another name for meadow mice, are the toughest of mouse babies and can survive exposure to cold. Voles like to live near water and sometimes their nests are flooded or washed out. The babies get thoroughly chilled, but if they are rescued quickly (mothers do this) they can survive. A newborn mouse can even survive total submersion for half an hour and resume breathing, though I hate to think how we know this and who did the research.

Voles are good swimmers. Sometimes they live and nest in swamps, on tall clumps of grass with water all around. They may have to swim whenever they go out. Their thick fur keeps them warm and dry and gives them buoyancy. One observer saw a frightened vole leap from the bank and hit the water at a run. For the first few feet it seemed to run across the surface and finally it sank enough to actually swim. It then swam for eighty or ninety feet, ten feet of which were under the surface.

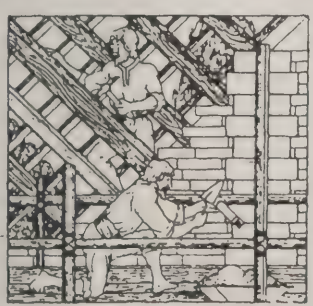
Meadow mice live all around the world, but only in the northern lands. Their habitats vary and they have been found at elevations of 20,000 feet in the Himalayan Mountains. Wherever they live, they rarely range farther than twenty or thirty feet from home unless pursued. Even if the food supply runs out in their home range, adults will not migrate, choosing starvation over the stresses and uncertainties of the unknown.



You might wonder if a little mouse even knows enough to know what constitutes "unknown." The answer to this is "yes" (or "squeak"). Mice have good vision, great senses of smell and hearing, and strong instincts. These abilities enable them to survive in a world full of danger, to locate a fine purple beet and make the most of it. Although they do not go looking for trouble, mice do not like strangers and will stand and fight, tooth and claw, to protect their homeland.

Does a mouse have a good life? You would have to ask a mouse. They are susceptible to population boom and disease, and to us their lifetime looks very short. But try asking an ancient bristlecone pine what it thinks of us. And most of us can't even run on top of the water.

Bonner J. McAllester



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On Eagles' Wings

The falconry lecture and demonstration scheduled for September 7 at the Bidwell House had to be cancelled at the last minute because the stellar performer, a splendid female goshawk was killed by a great horned owl. Visitors who showed up because they didn't get the bad news were treated to a free tour of the museum and a conservancy seed lecture at the historic vegetable garden, as well as a chance to walk the meetinghouse trail.

The prized northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), an indigenous species known for fierce hunting prowess had met its match during a live rehearsal several days before its appearance here. Late in the afternoon it had caught its prey when the owl sitting unseen in the top of a tree swooped down on silent wings. Birds of prey attacking others is not uncommon, and we have all seen bald eagles stealing fish from ospreys on television nature programs. Hunters in the heavens are a high profile spectacle in the balance of nature.

The bald eagle is probably the most dominant and stands at the top of the pecking order. In the year 1609, when Henry Hudson came sailing in his vessel the *Half Moon* up the river that today bears his name to commemorate this historic event, his appearance would not have gone unnoticed by the birds of prey of the Native Americans who hunted and fished along its banks. The eagle, with more than fifty times the eyesight of the best Mohawk sentry, was valued as a friend by other tribes in the Iroquois Federation as well, exalted because it gave advance warning signs of approaching intruders. Circling and screaming eagles could not be ignored. Other ships had also been seen along the New England coast, in the decade before the Pilgrims landed, and to Native Americans resembled large birds of prey sitting on the sea with gull-like sails. Their

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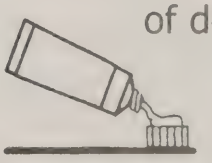

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predation came silently and unforeseen through European infectious germs for which there was no immunity here.

Bald eagles can be seen soaring over the three lakes in Monterey in spite of the pesticides that more recently threatened their nesting success. It may be that they have relocated the aeries from Hunger Mountain to the cliffs of the Dry Hill Reservation; they are more frequently seen this summer in that direction. The reservation can be reached only from the New Marlborough side of Harmon Road. There is a parking lot and trails operated by The Trustees of Reservations. Ravens have been seen there. Dry Hill has an elevation of 1650 feet and may be a good perch to watch hawk migrations. A hawk migration is quite an aerial display, orchestrated by Mother Nature as the world turns as the northern hemisphere faces into autumn.

Hawk migrations are not the friend of those who race homing pigeons, such as the man who almost daily comes to Curtis Road to release his birds from wooden cages loaded on the back of his pickup truck. He is from Westfield and says that their flight back there is only a training exercise for main events when they are taken as far away as Buffalo. He says their navigational instincts are enhanced by the position of planets. When he lets them go here early in the morning, they flap away toward the rising sun which they know is the direction of Westfield. But if he lets them go late in the afternoon they wrongly head toward the sunset, but not for very long. Soon, reacting to their inner gyrocompass, they turn for home. However during the autumn hawk migrations, with each passing day, the number of missing birds back at the aviary increase greatly due to predation.

Obviously migratory birds, such as hawks have their own instincts. The red-tailed hawks seem to circle at high altitudes, possibly finding their way visually along rivers, coastlines, and mountain ranges. Several years ago I watched just such a migration from my office window in Rockefeller Center as the hawks soared high over Manhattan heading south past the twin World Trade Towers.

In the last year the symbol of the eagle, as our national bird has taken on greater significance. On the seal of the Department of Defense, the eagle is linked to the formation of the United States of America. In its left talon it holds thirteen arrows, one for each state, joined together, like the Iroquois Federation in a pact of mutual vigilance. And especially now, like the Iroquois and the eagle, we should exalt the role and proficiency of the agencies, departments, and armed forces who can warn us of intruders to our peace and safety.

— George Emmons

Civil Rights Movement Recalled at Sandisfield Arts

"The Civil Rights Movement Is Missing," a dramatic presentation with words and music, will open the Sandisfield Arts Center's Cafe Season at 8 p.m. on October 5. The program was written by Val Coleman, Sandisfield author who served as Press Secretary for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in the 1960s. Coleman and Margaret Howard will narrate as a group of elementary school children, who call themselves Los Niños, sing the songs of freedom throughout the evening. The children are led by Sandisfield residents Bernice Jensky and Jeffrey Folmer, guitarist.

Coleman describes his view of the Civil Rights years as "the usual whine of an old-timer who thinks the movement has been badly served by history."

The evening will take place in the first-floor cafe of the Sandisfield Arts Center and is free, thanks to a donation by the Sandisfield Cultural Council Gift Fund. Coffee and sweets will be served. For more information, call (413) 258-3309.

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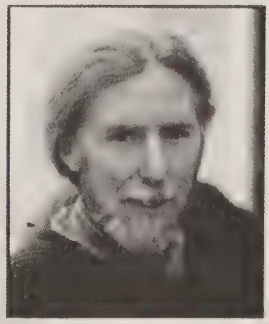

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The Thread of the Story

The Empress's New Clothes

I collect old blue and white china, which is a strange way to begin an article about fibers. But a teacup and saucer arrived in the mail recently, a gift from Nancy Claiborne, my-stitching-friend-from-Atlanta who now lives in the hills of Tennessee.

It wasn't just any old blue and white cup and saucer. This was gold trimmed, made in Russia, and the cup was capped with a gloriously ornate domed lid. I stared at it in shock, in delight. In order to imagine drinking tea from this cup, I thought, I'd have to imagine being Empress of All the Russias.

A year ago, long before the Empress's Teacup arrived, I'd received another unexpected gift. This one was blue and taupe. It was a two-piece, nineteenth-century dress. Its lines were so classic, gold trim would have made less elegant.

"You can wear it, of course," Ann Getzinger said as she thrust the soft package into my arms.

It fit.

Wear it? I wondered if I would.

But now I know why I hesitated to wear my regal hundred-year-old dress. I've been waiting for the right occasion. Now that the Empress's Teacup has arrived, who's interested in stopping by for tea?

— MaryKate Jordan

Sandisfield Arts Center Presents *Woman In Black*

Since it's first performance in 1989, *The Woman in Black* has become one of the great successes of London's West End. More than two-and-a-half million petrified theatre-goers have experienced the terrifying spectre of the woman in black, and she's coming to haunt Sandisfield on Saturday, October 26, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, October 27, at 3 p.m.

The Guardian calls Stephen Mallatratt's adaptation of Susan Hill's book "a brilliantly effective spine-chiller . . . the narrative is gripping." The *International Herald Tribune* concurs: "Really gripping ghost stories on stage are all too few and far between, so all credit to Stephen Mallatratt. . . . There may be better Ghost stories around in print, but I can't think of one that has been so carefully developed for the stage."

Internationally renowned singer/actor Benjamin Luxon, returns to the stage of the Sandisfield Arts Center to play Arthur Kipps, a middle-aged solicitor who hires a professional actor, played by Sandisfield stalwart George Preston, to help him tell the story of a horrifying series of events that befell him many years previously with devastatingly tragic results. Preston said, "*The Woman in Black* promises to frighten the whole family out of its wits, without gratuitous violence, sex, or profanity. It's the perfect way to set the mood for Halloween . . . Only don't forget to leave on a light or two before you depart for the theatre. You won't want to return to a dark, empty house."

Tickets are $15. For reservations or more information, call (413) 258-3309.

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Misinformation

To the Editor:

It is necessary to correct some misinformation that was printed on the front page of last month's issue of the *Monterey News,* in a piece about the responsibilities of the town Tree Warden. Massachusetts Electric does not request or instruct the Tree Warden to remove town trees. Massachusetts Electric will and does, at their expense, trim or remove trees that threaten their electrical wires. This is a wonderful service provided to the town, and their assistance is definitely reflected in our budget for tree care. As such, I have, in my twenty years as your Tree Warden, encouraged their participation in all ways that I could. Massachusetts Electric recognizes the fact that the responsibility for decisions regarding these trees is the Tree Warden's, they have always worked cooperatively with me, and I have a very good working relationship with them.

I don't know where this misinformation originated, but I want to make it clear that, since Massachusetts Electric does not instruct the Tree Warden to remove town trees, there has never been an instance where I ignored a request from them. More importantly, the implication that I could be unconcerned about any trees that might pose a threat to the safety of our townspeople is certainly not true. In fact, when necessary, I have very strongly urged Massachusetts Electric to take care of trees that concerned me. If there are any lingering doubts with the townspeople, please give me a call.

I would also like to respond to the Select Board's discussion about changing the position of Tree Warden from an elected one, as it is now, to one where the Tree Warden would instead be appointed by the Select Board. An elected position protects the independence and integrity of the Tree Warden, and ensures that the decisions made regarding our town trees are not politically motivated in any way. The job of Tree Warden does not entail only authorizing the removal of dead and/or dangerous trees, but also the care and protection of living trees. As your Tree Warden, I will continue to do my best to see that our healthy town trees are not cut down simply as a matter of course or for convenience. It is truly an honor to be elected by the townspeople to serve you, and I hope this will never change.

— Roger Tryon
Tree Warden

Remembering Leonard Magruder

Leonard Magruder, 67, of Tyringham Road and San Antonio, died in September in Monterey.

Born in Bay City, Texas, on October 30, 1934, son of Dalton and Jean Watson Magruder, he graduated from Patti Welder High School in Victoria, Texas, in 1952. He attended Texas A&M College for two years and transferred to the University of Texas in Austin, where he received bachelor degrees in sociology and business administration. After graduation, he joined the Air Force and was stationed in Adana, Turkey. He was discharged as a lieutenant.

Mr. Magruder was a senior vice president of Frost National Bank in San Antonio, retiring in 1997. He was a member of the board of directors of the San Antonio Symphony, a member of the Mind Science Foundation in San Antonio, and chairman of the board and president of New Age School. He also was on the finance committe for the Center for Peace through Culture.

He and his wife, the former Sharon Burnett, were married July 24, 1964.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Lisa Magruder of San Antonio and Amy Magruder of Austin; a brother, Walter Magruder of Houston, and a sister, Alice Jean Timberlake of Austin.

Expressions of sympathy in his memory may be made to HospiceCare in the Berkshires or to the Center for Peace through Culture in care of Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South St., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

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Remembering Betsey Camp

Betsey Whitestone Camp, 79, of Elephant Rock Road, Monterey, died on Saturday, September 21, at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington.

A native of Great Barrington, she was born September 1, 1923, the daughter of Walter Sherman Whitestone and Beulah Taggart Whitestone Peacock. She attended the one-room school in Monterey and St. Mary's School in Burlington, New Jersey, and graduated in 1940 from Northfield Mount Herman School in Northfield and in 1944 from the former Beaver College, now Arcardia College, in Philadelphia; she received a Masters in Education from the University of Buffalo at Lockport, New York, in 1964.

Mrs. Camp was a lifelong summer resident of Monterey. She moved to Delray Beach, Florida, in 1977, having previously lived in Derry, New Hampshire, Williamsville, New York, and Maywood, New Jersey. She taught physical education for twenty-one years, starting at Beaver College and later at Amherst Junior High School in New York State and Riverdell and Dwight Morrow High Schools in New Jersey, retiring from Manchester School District in New Hampshire in 1977.

She enjoyed being a "lady of leisure," swimming, and knitting.

Her husband of forty-three years, John T. "Jack" Camp, died on February 2, 1989.

She is survived by her daughter, Jessica C. Duke and her husband, Frank, of Lenox; two sons, John T. Camp, III, and his wife, Patricia, of Glen Rock, N.J., and James T. Camp and his wife, Linda, of Stafford, Va.; one brother, W. S. Peter Whitestone of Dalton; and six grandchildren.

The family suggests that contributions in Betsey's name be made to either Fairview Hospital, the Alzheimer's Foundation, or the American Cancer Society through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances and reflections may be sent to the family through Finnerty@bcn.net.

ॐ

Remembering Sandy Banks

Thomas A. "Sandy" Banks Jr., 54, of Stevenson Road, Westport, New York, formerly of Art School Road, Monterey, died on September 20 at home under the care of his family and High Peaks Hospice.

Born in Highland, Illinois, on May 13, 1948, he was the son of Thomas A. Banks Sr. and Dorothy Buzbee Banks Keas.

He served in the Coast Guard from 1967 to 1970.

Mr. Banks and his wife, the former Lindsay Pontius, operated the Theater Light Company, where he was an actor. They later moved to Westport and operated Soncy Brae Horse Farm.

He also was a stained-glass artisan in Hilton Head, South Carolina, where he founded Planters Mercantile Artist Cooperative. He was a professional tennis player and enjoyed riding horses, hiking, and sailing.

Besides his wife and mother, he leaves his stepfather, Paul Keas of Oklahoma City; a brother, John Banks of Portland, Maine; and a sister, Sharon.

A memorial service for Sandy was held on Saturday, September 28, at Soncy Brae Farm. A contingent of his friends from Monterey attended.

ॐ

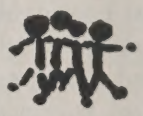
Personal Notes

Birthday greetings to **Rita Gottlieb** and **Karla Brady** on the 1st, **Jim Gauthier** and **Mabel Sheridan** on the 2nd, **Giuliana Raab** on the 4th, **Alyssa Mielke** on the 5th, **Paula Mielke** on the 6th, **Joseph Makuc, Tom Thorn,** and **James Allentuck** on the 9th, **Karen Shreefter** on the 11th, **Dave Quisenberry** on the 12th, **Taylor Amstead** on the 17th, **Jill Amstead** on the 19th, **Claire Mielke** on the 24th, **Debra Mielke** and **Steve Bynack** on the 25th, **Elizabeth Orenstein, Emily Boyer, Keller Dinan,** and **Glynis Oliver** on the 26th, **Deborah Mielke** on the 27th, and **Gisela Freundlich** on the 31st.

Happy Anniversary wishes to **Dick and Barbara Tryon** on the 5th.

Congratulations to **Claire Mielke,** recipient of the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award. This award is based on outstanding academic achievement in science. Recipients are eligible to be considered for a Bausch & Lomb Scholarship at the University of Rochester. Claire is a senior at Mount Everett Regional High School.

— Deborah Mielke



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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon, Town Offices.

Saturday, October 5: Program on "The Civil Rights Movement Is Missing," 8 p.m, Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. at Rt. 57. Free. Information (413) 258-3309. See p. 15.

Thursday, October 10:

"Environmental Health Lessons," talk by Dr. Ted Schettler, 7 p.m., Lenox High School. Free. See p. 5.

Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Saturday, October 12:

Annual Firemen's Ball, 7–11 p.m., Monterey Firehouse. $45/couple. See p. 4.

Nature walk/journaling workshop, 1–3 p.m., Bidwell House Museum. Information (413) 528-6888. See p. 4.

Saturday, October 12–Monday October 14: Harvest Fair, Granville, Mass. (Route 57). A mile of artists, artisans, entertainment, and food. Information (413) 357-8801.

Monday, October 14: Columbus Day observed, Town Offices closed.

Contributors

We are grateful to the following people who recently contributed to the *Monterey News.*

Hildegard & Peter Wolff
Toby & Leonard Friedman
Edward Dunlop
Susan Kuder
Ann and John Higgins
Georgianna & Daniel Eschen
Enes Grassis
Oren Rosenthal
Ian Jenkins & Maria Carvainis
Howard Burns
Richard & Patricia Dran

Thursday, October 17: School Committee meeting, 7 p.m., Monterey School. All interested persons invited.

Saturday, October 19: Open House, apple cider pressing demonstration, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Bidwell House. Information (413) 528-6888. See p. 4.

Monday, October 21: Full Moon.

Wednesday, October 23: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.

The Observer

August 26–September 25,

High temp. (9/10)	87°
Low temp. (9/13)	42°
Avg. high temp.	72.2°
Avg. low temp.	51.6°
Avg. temp.	61.9°
Total rainfall	3.37"

Precipitation occurred on 10 days.

Saturday, October 26:

Square & contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Peter Stix. All dances taught; beginners, children welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Info. (413) 528-9385.

"The Woman in Black," scary play for Halloween, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. at Rt. 57. $15. Repeated Sunday, October 27, at 3 p.m. Tickets $15. Reservations, information (413) 258-3309. See p. 16.

Sunday, October 27: Daylight savings time ends. Winter hours go into effect at Transfer Station. See p. 4.

Thursday, October 31: Halloween. Monterey trick or treat hours 5–7 p.m.

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (e-mail or PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 (e-mail: windrose@bcn.net).

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 4, 10, 11; George Emmons, p. 14; MaryKate Jordan, p. 16; Bonner McAllester, p. 13; Glynis Oliver, pp. 5, 9, 17, 18.

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